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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1909.

WHY WAS THE COUNTY BOSS
SLIGHTED?

The hearing at Hartford, Thursday, before the Judiciary committee, on the Bridgeport City Court contest, did not develop any points not generally known here, though fresh information of value to the committee was perhaps produced.

It was known that the contest is between the "Olds" and the "Youngs," with reputable men as candidates upon both sides; that the "Olds" number among their members most of the men conspicuous these many years in the "machine" which generally rules the local Republican party; that the legal profession is divided upon the question and that respected citizens are found in each faction.

Mayor Lee who appeared for the "Olds," was met by the fact that he owes his nomination to the self-sacrificing spirit of a leading member of the "Youngs," and it might have been added that, had the "Youngs" bolted the nomination, his election would have been most gravely endangered. His present position carries the appearance of gross ingratitude.

The omission of Sheriff Hawley's name from the list of speakers for the state of the "Olds" is a surprise. Surely he had earned the right to appear thus conspicuously. Did he not make that "Macedonian cry for help" by telegraph to Senator Brandegee, to which the latter responded with a virtual order to the Judiciary committee to await his pleasure? As the Senator was held by pressure of official business in Washington and could not appear personally, should not the managing "Olds" have placed the sheriff on the speaking list and thus permitted Mr. Brandegee to appear by proxy? Besides, is not Sheriff Hawley the acknowledged boss of Fairfield County Republicanism, and is not Bridgeport a part of the county, with the conduct of its affairs thus within his jurisdiction?

But the contest is now in the committee's hands, even though the record is importantly incomplete as above indicated, and its decision will be awaited with the usual interest attaching to local factional contests.

State Treasurer Patten favors reimposition of the State tax upon the towns, which has been non-existent since 1890. Before the Farmers' association which is composed of members of the General Assembly from the country towns and which can, acting untidily, control the House, he stated that 27 towns would pay 75 per cent. of the tax—that is, that the cities and larger boroughs would carry nearly the entire burden. Desiring reimposition of the tax, Treasurer Patten showed excellent judgment in placing such an argument before such a body; also, in refraining from mentioning the further fact that while most of the cities make full-value assessments, probably a majority of the rural towns continue the old practice of half to two-thirds value assessments, which permits them to dodge materially on county taxation and would operate similarly in connection with a State tax. If full-value assessments, as required by law, could be enforced, there would be slight objection to a State tax if needed; under existing conditions, it would operate very unequally.

Indefinite postponement of hearings upon the pending public utilities bills carries an ominous look. It probably called forth Gov. Lilley's special message urging early action. During the campaign, the Farmer, noting the considerable number of legislative nominees connected with public utility corporations, suggested that these corporations were quietly engaged in packing one or both branches of the General Assembly against the creation of a properly constructed and properly endowed public utilities commission. Indefinite postponement of hearings indicates that the suggestion was well-founded. The apparent purpose is such delay as will permit use of the argument that the time remaining of the much-urged short session will not allow the thorough consideration demanded by so important a matter. If that scheme doesn't suffice, the lobby probably has others in reserve.

When 10 stockholders control the American Tobacco Co., which in turn controls the tobacco manufacturers—60 per cent. in plug, 81 in fine cut, 71 in smoking and 96 in snuff—a monopoly clearly able to regulate prices to consumers and also to fix prices to producers, is pretty conclusively established. It is the buying methods of this virtual monopoly which have caused the very grave troubles in the tobacco-growing districts of Kentucky and Tennessee. With but one buyer in each district, producers are compelled to sell at whatever price may be offered, and these prices are, it is said, either very close to or below the actual cost of production. Consumers

are probably paying more than a fair profit to the monopoly which thus "claims the tide both ways."

The tendency of the youth of the interior towns to sack livelihoods in the cities, deprives those sections of the services of the ones most likely to become the destroyers of such undesirable animals as foxes, raccoons, skunks, weasels, woodchucks, etc., and such birds as hawks and owls. As an inevitable result, these so-called "vermin" have largely increased in number, and measures proposing bounties for their destruction are pending in the General Assembly. It seems to be the only available and practical way of dealing with the situation.

The favorite methods of the suffragettes, as shown in London and likely to be adopted in this country though with perhaps less tendency to disorder, are not such as to promote the cause of woman suffrage. It may be added that when a majority of the women of this country enjoy a real desire for the voting privilege, they will not need to adopt London methods to secure it.

Franklin MacVeagh of Chicago, who is to be Secretary of the Treasury under President Taft was a "Gold Democrat" in 1896, and voted for McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft. He is a lawyer by education, but a wholesale grocer in active business.

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FAIRFIELD

A Good Concert—Two Operettas—An Original Story — The Club Oyster Supper—A New Baker's Route.

What Rev. Dr. Child calls the best concert ever given in the Congregational church was enjoyed last evening by a large audience which crowded the Sunday school room and overflowed into the church parlor. The program opened with the "Prison Song" from the opera of Il Trovatore by Prof. Swan. The Hargrove school which he played in a masterly manner upon the piano. For an encore he gave the Shadow act from Lenora. The next number was the rendering of the bridal chorus by the Choral Society of the church, under the leadership of Prof. Snead of Yale. This chorus is composed of a score or more of young ladies and gentlemen who attend the church. Mr. Snead followed with a solo, and for an encore gave a song called "Going Down to Rio." He possesses a strong bass voice and sings with great force and expression. The 4th number of the program was an operetta by the choir of the church, an amusing work founded upon the nursery rhyme:

"Little Jack Horner sat in a corner,
Eating a Christmas pie,
He put in this thumb, pulled out a plum
And said: What a good boy am I."

The words of the operetta began thus:
Jack Horner was a pretty lad,
His mother loved him well.

The singing was very sweet and created a good deal of amusement. At this point Rev. Dr. Child read an original story—"The Padded Experience" which came to a New England Clergyman." Mrs. White said he was a very sick man, and told Mrs. Blue that a council of doctors had been called. There were many anxious people in the parish who watched the peculiar symptoms which the clergyman exhibited. He was constantly talking about ancestors, and hunting for family records. The post master noticed that he corresponded with many learned societies abroad such as the Genealogical and the Heraldry Office; he attended all the family reunions he could hear of; he haunted the Town Hall and poured over dusty records until his clothes became dusty, some said with the dust of ages. He picked up the odds and ends of ancient tomes; bent over in his walk; and had often been heard walking his room late at night, and more than once a big book had been heard to tumble down as late as four o'clock in the morning. He boarded with Mrs. Purple, and she noticed that he was losing his appetite and no matter what delicacies were served before him, he did not seem to care for them. Sometimes he would receive as many as ten letters a day, from all parts of the country, and Mrs. Purple said that some of them contained as many as 17 questions about the writer's ancestors. One letter came from a lady who wished to know who her mother was. Mr. Gray, the clergyman replied that she was a Plint, and all the Skinfitts of Boston were descended from her. At another time

he was asked what he was doing in the State of Massachusetts. He replied that he was a New England Clergyman.

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when he ought to have said grace, he bowed his head and said Banks, Burra Bradleys, Boyles, and Blacks. He had day dreams and night dreams, and was all the time going from bad to worse. These dreams were fantastic, and always about one's ancestors. He would write out pedigrees and determine whether one belonged to the D. A. R.'s of the Colonial Dames, or the Daughters of the War of 1812, or the Audubon Society. Once he said the Herrings were all Fishes on the mother's side, and finally matters got so bad it was determined to call a council of physicians. Dr. Brown was one, and Dr. Green another, and finally they reported that Rev. Mr. Gray was suffering from an alarming attack of genealogical prostration, and that he should be taking the woods for a year or two and given doses of common sense. The story caused much laughter and hearty applause.

The program was resumed by the Choral Class singing the "Curfew" assisted by the choir. This of itself was quite a pretty operetta.

Mr. Snead followed singing a Scotch border song and for an encore gave a lullaby. These songs were received with delight. Miss Louise Forsythe acted as accompanist upon the piano. In closing Dr. Child thanked all who took part and said he had enjoyed the concert with keen delight. He gave Prof. Snead of Yale high praise for his faithful training of the Choral class.

The young ladies of the Choral class were Marion Donaldson, Katharine Glover, Deborah Glover, Iva King, Helen and Louise Forsythe, Sarah W. Deyo, Maud Perry, Louie Everett, Dorothy Smith, Elsie Jennings, Ethel Hotchkiss and Francis and Nellie Deitchmar. All were dressed in white, and all sang sweetly. A few of those noticed in the audience were William B. Glover, Dr. and Mrs. Donaldson, Attorney and Mrs. Clitus King, John Donaldson, Mr. Taylor of Southport, Talmadge Wakeman, Mr. Justice Bacon Wakeman, Mr. Shey and wife, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Smith, Roger Smith, Mr. Hawley, Miss Ada C. Sterling, Earnest, Winfield and Howard Thomas, Arthur Deyo, Samuel Randolph, Miss Mary Sorenson, Miss Mable Price, Miss Cartesen, Miss Mary B. Kippen, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Burr, Miss Louise Burr, Mr. Murphy, organist of the church, Mrs. F. H. Brewer, Mrs. Hayes and daughter, Mr. B. Betts, and Miss Bessie Betts, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Deyo, Mrs. Henry Burr, Mr. Judd, Mrs. O. J. Deyo, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Jennings, Miss Loretta Perry, Miss Annie O. Morehouse, Miss Hattie Osborne, Mrs. William Whaley, Mr. and Mrs. J. Elting Deyo, Mr. and Mrs. H. Huntington, Mr. Mortenson and family, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Bulkeley of Mill Hill, Mrs. and Miss Freeman, Miss Mary Howard, Miss Price, Mrs. Bryant and two daughters, Mrs. Sherwood, and Mr. Smith.

Yesterday afternoon Mrs. John Forsythe of Elliott street, entertained a dozen or fifteen ladies from Bridgeport, who belong to a Rebekah sewing society.

The oyster supper given by the married men of the Greenfield Country Club on Thursday evening last, was a success. There was 12 handed game of whist and some handsome prizes were won. Mr. C. H. Bradley took the first prize. A few of those present included Mr. and Mrs. Nellie Sherwood, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Hutchinson, Selectman Fox and wife, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Burr, and Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Burr. John Deyo, Mr. and Mrs. Mervin and wife, the Misses Bradley, Miss Archibald, Miss Knapp, Mr. and Mrs. H. Elwood, Mr. Clifford Elwood and Miss McCleave, and Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Bradley.

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BIG FLEET BREAKING UP

MINNESOTA AND VIRGINIA GO TO NORFOLK NAVY YARD FOR REPAIRS.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 27.—The breaking up of the Atlantic battleship fleet began yesterday when the Minnesota and Virginia left the Roads for the Norfolk navy yard, where repairs will be made and their bottoms scraped. Other vessels are expected to leave for other navy yards to-day. The hands of the Connecticut, Louisiana and Vermont were at Old Point yesterday. They united and made music in the streets and park. The day was clear and one of the first good days since the fleet returned.

Norfolk will officially entertain the officers and men of the fleet to-day. Three thousand of the fleet and 115 officers will parade. The sailors and the men of the army will be banqueted at the new naval Y. M. C. A. building after the parade.

REVENUE CUTTER HIT ROCK

Mohawk, Dodging a Tag, Jams on Hog's Back.

New York, Feb. 27.—The revenue cutter Mohawk, a fine steel coast patrol, bound from New London for her Station Island anchorage and with more than half an hour of the sunshine of a clear day left to investigate, plunged yesterday afternoon on Hog's Back, the reef jutting out under water for several hundred feet from the south end of Ward's Island in Hell Gate, where a squadron of steam craft have come to grief in calm and storm.

The tide was falling, and just as the cutter entered the dangerous passage a tug with two lighters menaced her. It became a question whether she should, smash into the lighters or run the risk of taking bottom. Capt. Stanley M. Landrey decided to take the risk.

The cutter struck so hard that the crash could be heard distinctly on the Astoria shore. She saw her whistles shrieking for help and also got busy with her wireless outfit sending forth the familiar C. Q. D. signal.

The police launch was alongside within half an hour and one of the New York and New Haven tugs, transfers 11 and 18, got lines on the cutter. The navy tug Powhatan and the McClelland tug were among the fleet that proffered aid. Hawes snapped in the effort to move the Mohawk. She was fast by the bow and her commander reported that she was leaning forward and that she had hit pretty hard. He said he did not believe she was in danger of sinking or moving off into deep water.

The impression was that the Mohawk was pretty badly damaged. Her bow was caught between two rocks, or a cleft in the water that the after lights of her ports seemed to be nearly level with the river. Capt. Landrey said he was in no immediate danger.

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